



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Connections

Celebrating Programs Through Partnerships

September 2006



David and Elizabeth Stubblefield

The Glue that Holds High Point Council Together: Elizabeth and David Stubblefield

Talk about a labor of love. For more than 25 years, David and Elizabeth Stubblefield have served the community through the High Point Community Center Advisory Council, and they still are active council members long after their sons, now grown men, were active participants.

"David and Elizabeth have always been there for the kids and families at High Point," says Bill Keller, Executive Director of the Associated Recreation Council. "They have really been the glue that kept the council presence together at High Point over the years."

Elizabeth is the current advisory council President, and David has served as President several times and as Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Elizabeth grew up in the High Point community, while David, a native of Tacoma, moved to the neighborhood in 1973. In the late 1970s, David would often come to the center to play pickup basketball, and later to coach his sons Marcus and Michael. Other parents, particularly advisory council members Joe and Hillary Warren, noticed how the young people looked up to David and they recruited him for the advisory council.

"It's all about the kids and making sure they have safe and fun activities," says David, reflecting on his many years of service. "It has just been such a wonderful experience watching them grow."

"I always wanted to make sure that people who live in High Point got a fair shake," adds Elizabeth, who works at a nearby health clinic and has seen a lot of families as patients. "I wanted to make sure they got good programs they could count on."

The Stubblefields have continued their involvement because of the feeling of community that comes from knowing local families. The kids involved in community center programs way back when are now coming back as parents, and the parents have become grandparents.

During their tenure as advisory council members, the Stubblefields oversaw the start of the day care program that helped working parents take care of their children, the creation of a concession stand at basketball games that funded scholarships and team trophies, and numerous other programs and special events.

"One of my biggest rewards was helping kids who didn't have money to buy snacks at the concession stand," Elizabeth says. "In the process she would always 'check in' with them to find out how they were doing in school and at home."

Adds David Stubblefield, "I am most proud that we as an advisory council were able to provide so many scholarship opportunities for youth that substantially reduced or eliminated the costs for families who could not otherwise afford it."

Advisory Council Presidents Meeting on Oct. 2

The Associated Recreation Council invites the president or alternate from each advisory council to a dinner meeting on Monday, Oct. 2 at McCormick and Schmick's Harborside Restaurant, 1200 Westlake Ave. N. Registration begins at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

The agenda includes discussion of new budgeting tools to help prepare 2007 advisory council budgets and other important information about the modernization process.

You have a dinner choice of salmon or vegetarian pasta. RSVP by Sept. 27 to Bill Keller at 206-684-7083 or bill.keller@seattle.gov

Community Learning Centers Make a Positive Difference

A message from Seattle Parks and Recreation Operations Director Christopher Williams

I am proud that the mission of the park and recreation profession is to make a positive difference in the everyday lives of children and their families. Over the past year, we've significantly expanded the positive difference we're able to make in the lives of middle school age students through Community Learning Centers, which are designed to help young people do better in school.

In 2004, Seattle voters renewed an eight-year expanded Families and Education Levy. While the Levy continues to fund many of the programs begun in past levies, there is now a sharper focus on preparing children to be ready for school, improving academic achievement, reducing disproportionality in the achievement outcomes of children of color, and helping students complete school with particular attention to serving students and schools that face significant challenges in these areas.

Middle school is a critical transition time for students. The Levy supports these youth by providing school-based intervention and treatment programs that provide mental health services, social/emotional counseling, and truancy/dropout prevention to middle school students during school hours. The Levy, in collaboration with community centers, neighborhood organizations, and schools, has also stepped in to fund fun and creative out-of-school-time programming that supports academic achievement for elementary school students and teens between the ages of 11 and 18.

Parks and the Seattle YMCA are leading the implementation of programs designed to help middle schoolers. We operate Community Learning Centers at Denny, McClure, and Mercer Middle Schools. By the end of the Levy's life, approximately \$6.5 million of Levy funds will have been invested in Community Learning Centers in Seattle's 10 public middle schools.

Accountability for success is a centerpiece of the 2004 Levy. The Levy Oversight Committee established targets for results in school readiness, academic achievement, and dropout reduction for all Levy programs. An annual report to citizens will identify progress toward these goals, and we will track academic results for students in all programs and trends in attendance, grade promotion, disciplinary actions, discipline disproportionality, and other measures that correlate with improved academic performance.

Community Learning Centers operate on the premise that there are many paths toward helping our young people do better in school. This program engages and challenges youth academically as individuals rather than applying the one-size fits all approach. Experience has shown that cookie-cutter approaches have not worked. The students in our programs have academic performance plans prepared by their schools, and the support they receive through the CLC program is aligned specifically with each student's individual growth and improvement.

Recreation plays a key role in helping our kids do better in school because what students learn in an activity can: spark their enthusiasm for learning, enhance their performance in school, and expose them to cultural richness and connections with their community. At our CLCs, students have the opportunity to participate in activities such as theatre, movie production, tutoring, chess, robotics, sports and more.

There is extensive research that describes the significant positive impact that out-of-school-time recreation programs make in the lives of children. We know that our recreation staff, including ARC employees, foster close interpersonal supportive bonds with youth in our programs, and that this helps youth feel cared for and safe and builds the social and developmental assets they will need as adults.

The Families and Education Levy and Community Learning Centers underscore the City's commitment to helping more youth do better in school and graduate from high school. Seattle Parks, in partnership with the Associated Recreation Council, is proud to be one of the park and recreation agencies in the country intentionally targeting academic achievement for youth.



NEW! REGISTER ONLINE · it's easy!
www.seattle.gov/parks = **SPARC**

Online Registration: Try It!

Online registration is now available for all community centers, pools and small craft centers, and it has become an increasingly popular option. More than half of all registrations for fall quarter 2006 programs came through our online system that is called SPARC (for Seattle Parks and Recreation Connection).

Online registration improves customer service by allowing participants to register at their own convenience from their home computers. No more waiting in line!

Visit our web site at www.seattle.gov/parks to check it out.



Langston Hughes Teen Summer Musical

Summer Teen Musical A Crowd Pleaser

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center's Teen Summer Musical presented in an original production of "Summer Rhapsody: The Reunion" at the Seattle Rep from Aug. 22 to 27. All nine performances were attended by enthusiastic crowds. The production featured riveting song and dance, and a thought-provoking story.

Since its inception in 1996, the summer program has served more than 800 culturally diverse youth and provided inspiring performances to almost 70,000 audience members. Past productions include *The Wiz*, *Snow White and the Seven*, *Soul of Beauty and the Beast*, *GREASE: The Way We Do It*, and last year's popular *Uncle Willy's Chocolate Factory*.

Young people ages 13 to 18 learn about all aspects of performance production from an initial read-through of the script to costume fittings, integration of sets, lights, and sound.

Isiah Anderson, Jr., Langston Hughes Teen Development Leader, wrote and directed this original production; Candi Hall choreographed the show.

The summer musical program is made possible by the generous support of several partners and funders, including Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, 4Culture, the Washington State Arts Commission, Pepsi Valley Partnership, Nesholm Foundation, Poncho, and US Bank.

Maps Show Underserved

New maps with demographic information will help us identify underserved populations. Staff from Parks' planning and property management sections have developed a demographic overview of the city that includes a series of 14 Census tract maps that highlight various demographic indicators. View the maps on our web site: www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/census.htm

Mayor Proposes Funding Programs in South Park

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels on Sept. 13 announced plans to help strengthen the South Park community by investing more than \$1.75 million in neighborhood-backed programs focused on youth, transportation, and the environment.

The mayor will include the additional investment in his proposed 2007-2008 budget, which he will deliver to the City Council in late September. The proposal marks the first step in a wider South Park Action Agenda, currently being developed by community members to improve economic development, quality of life, and youth opportunities in the neighborhood.

Included in the South Park package is:

- \$50,000 to design an open space and community park at 12th and Trenton.
- \$442,244 over two years to extend operating hours at the South Park Community Center, add a Late Night teen program, add a new staff position, and increase funds for a youth job readiness program.
- \$145,665 over two years to improve a community center computer lab and support the Spanish-language information center.

Discovery Park Calendar

The stunning 2007 Discovery Park Calendar is now available. The 2007 calendar features the artwork of 15 photographers, chosen from more than 80 photographers who entered the second annual Discovery Park calendar photography contest. Proceeds from the calendar benefit the Discovery Park Plant Endowment fund, which supports plant purchases at Discovery Park.

Available for \$12, the calendar will be for sale at the Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center, as well as at the University of Washington Bookstore, Magnolia Thriftway, Secret Garden Bookstore, Epilogue Books, Seattle Audubon, Fremont Books, Flora and Fauna Books, Santoro's Books, Mailbox in Magnolia, Magnolia Books and Swanson's Nursery.

Call 206-733-9434 for more information.



Arctic Call, Paul Bannick

Short Takes

Mariners Tickets! The Seattle Mariners donated a total of 1,000 FREE tickets for our summer day camp kids for the Aug. 9 afternoon game against the Devil Rays. This was a fun field trip to Safeco Field for our summer campers.

Southwest Partnership: Southwest Pool's partnership with Puget Sound Neighbor Health Clinic at Highpoint continues to flourish. Since January, more than 660 clients from the clinic have used the pool. The pool offers exercise programs, public and families swims, and a sauna and spa. The clinic is billed for the use by the approved individuals.

Mt. Baker Groundbreaking: Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center friends and supporters, including King County Executive Ron Sims and several City Councilmembers, broke ground on the renovation project on Sunday, Sept. 10. As demand has increased over the years, the Mt. Baker Boating Advisory Council embarked on a plan to expand the center, and have raised the \$2.3 million to fund the expansion. Funding comes from City of Seattle, King County, and state grants, and from privately raised funds.

Alki Art Fair: The Alki Beach Art Fair was held July 29 and 30 at the bathhouse. Thousands of people attended this annual Alki Community Center Advisory Council event featuring 50 artists selling hand made local artwork. This year, Alki Community Council formally supported the fair. Ken Davis, Alki Community Center Assistant Coordinator, and Alki Advisory Council employee, Giovinnina Souers organized the event.

Teens Learn to Swim: Parks' Outdoor Opportunities (O2) program working with Aquatics staff, set up a teen learn-to-swim program this summer at Medgar Evers Pool for an ethnically diverse group of teens who were unable to participate in adventure programs because of the lack of swimming ability. Twice a week, the 15 students learned basic strokes, water safety techniques, and other skills needed to pass a 10-minute float test, a requirement for Parks aquatic activities. Before taking lessons, Robert Dusseljee, 14, wasn't comfortable leaving the shallow end of the pool and his mom always kept a close watch on him while he was in the water. "I decided to take the lessons so that I would be able to swim," Robert said. "Now I know what to do in the water."

Special Events

Sept. 22

Woodland Park's SOAR Program,
Loyal Heights CC, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Sit In Dinner and a Movie,
Ravenna-Eckstein CC, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Dinner and a Movie
Ballard CC, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Sept. 23

Neighborhood Appreciation Day,
Meadowbrook Teen Center, 4 – 6 p.m.

Sept. 27

Survival Challenge,
Meadowbrook Teen Center, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 29

Autumn Stories,
Loyal Heights CC, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 30

4-H Flea Market,
Ballard CC, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 10

Advisory Council fundraising Spaghetti Dinner,
Rainier Beach CC

Credits

Anna Martin, ARC Board President; Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director; David Takami, Editor; Margarite Hargrave, Designer.

For information or comments please call or e-mail David Takami at 206-684-8020, david.takami@seattle.gov